

Serial No. 10/815,363

Docket No.: 56433US012

Amendments to the Claims

A detailed list of all claims under examination is set out below. Please amend claims 1, 6-8, 14, 22, 23 and 25-30 as shown below in marked form:

1. (currently amended): A method for forming a liquid coating on a substrate comprising electrostatically spraying drops of the liquid onto a liquid-wetted target region of a conductive transfer surface, wherein the target region is at a lower voltage than the drops and has a continuous coating of the liquid before newly-applied drops land, and transferring contacting the transfer surface against the substrate to transfer a portion of the ~~thus-applied liquid~~ continuous coating from the transfer surface to the substrate to form a wet coating.

2. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the transfer surface circulates.

3. (original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the transfer surface comprises a drum.

4. (original): A method according to claim 3 wherein the drum is grounded.

5. (original): A method according to claim 2 wherein the transfer surface comprises a belt.

6. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein one or more nip rolls force the substrate against the transfer surface, thereby spreading the applied drops on the transfer surface and decreasing the time required for the drops to coalesce into the continuous coating of liquid on the transfer surface.

7. (currently amended): A method according to claim 6 wherein the nip roll causes the wet coating to have visually improved uniformity.

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8. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate has a direction of motion and the wet coating is contacted by two or more pick-and-place devices that improve the uniformity of the wet coating in the direction of motion.

9. (original): A method according to claim 8 wherein at least one of the pick-and-place devices comprises a roll.

10. (original): A method according to claim 9 comprising three or more pick-and-place rolls.

11. (original): A method according to claim 10 wherein three or more of the rolls have different diameters.

12. (original): A method according to claim 11 wherein at least one of the rolls is undriven.

13. (original): A method according to claim 11 wherein all of the rolls are undriven.

14. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate has a direction of motion and the transfer surface comprises a rotating endless belt contacted by two or more pick-and-place devices that improve the uniformity of the wet coating in the direction of motion.

15. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises an insulative substrate.

16. (original): A method according to claim 15 wherein the substrate is coated without pre-charging the substrate.

17. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises paper, plastic, rubber, glass, ceramic, metal, biologically derived material, or a combination or composite thereof.

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18. (original): A method according to claim 17 wherein the substrate comprises a polyolefin, polyimide or polyester.

19. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the wet coating is transferred from the conductive transfer surface to a second transfer surface and thence to the substrate.

20. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises a porous substrate.

21. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises a woven or nonwoven web.

22. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises a porous substrate, one or more nip rolls force the substrate against the transfer surface and the substrate is coated without substantial penetration of the coating through the substrate.

23. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises an electronic film, electronic component or precursor thereof.

24. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the wet coating is dried, cured or otherwise hardened and has a final caliper.

25. (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 24 wherein the drops have an average diameter that is greater than the caliper and the wet coating is substantially void-free.

26. (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 24 wherein the caliper is less than about 10 micrometers.

27. (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 24 wherein the caliper is less than about 1 micrometer.

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28. (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 24 wherein the caliper is less than about 0.1 micrometer.

29. (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 24 wherein the caliper is greater than about 10 micrometers.

30. (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 24 wherein the caliper is greater than about 100 micrometers.

31. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the drops are neutralized on the transfer surface before being transferred to the substrate.

32. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the coating is applied in one or more stripes that wholly or partially overlap, that abut one another, or that are separated by uncoated substrate.